

20th January 2016
Middlesbrough Town Hall
11am – 1pm

NEIDN Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Martin Wilson, Rob Huggins, Laura Hunter, Joe Maloney, Olga Maloney, Jessica Smith and Hannah Marshall

Agenda:

- Welcome

Martin and Rob introduced the meeting explaining some key points about the network such as it being established for roughly 18 months, primarily focusing on learning disability dance, network grew out of an initial meeting with the National Inclusive Dance Network based at G-Dance in Gloucestershire and the NEIDN is the only regional inclusive network. All attendee's introduced themselves, new attendees for this meeting were Laura who works for Middlesbrough Council, Joe and Olga who are directors of the Billingham International Folklore Festival and Jessica who is involved in many projects and organisations such as Teesside University, Billingham International Folklore Festival and Teesside Film Festival.

- Minutes/Recap from the last meeting

The last meeting was in November 2015 and was focused around the GfA bid to develop the network. The drivers for the application were to create more of a formal network, raise the profile of the network, future planning to be able to do new things with the network. It was acknowledged by Jessica that the network is definitely needed for the region, and she has also spoken to Alex Croft of the Arts Council about inclusive dance. Also the aim is for organisations and freelancers to engage with the meetings more than just once and to create better communication and cross-pollination of ideas. The bid was successfully led by Liberdade and included the recruitment of a development coordinator, mentoring opportunity for three individuals and to develop an event in Teesside.

- NEIDN Development Coordinators

The network received three applications to the open call-out for a development coordinator. Rachel Jean Birch and Hannah Marshall were jointly appointed the role of Development Coordinators in November. Rachel and Hannah are co-producers of FRESH North East, which has been delivering opportunities for artists to develop their choreographic work over the past five years working with different artists and organisations across the whole of the North East. They have recently developed a company called Moving Art Management, which will still include the FRESH platforms but allows them to take on other roles. Rachel and Hannah also work as freelance dance artists in many other capacities. Rachel works at Dance City, Newcastle Theatre Royal and Siobhan Davis Studios in London as well as performing for a number of companies. Hannah works for the Dance City Centre for Advanced Training Programme as a teacher, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator and Administrator. Rachel and Hannah were delighted to be appointed this role with the NEIDN and are extremely grateful for the opportunity. They are excited to develop and champion the work of the network and its members. As a starting point they

have met with Rob and Martin and have begun developing content for the network, producing a website, facebook, twitter and vimeo accounts. The new email address for the network is info@neidn.co.uk. They will also contact a number of organisations to introduce the network.

- ACTION: Rachel and Hannah to share the above social media platforms with the network members and promote widely.
- ACTION: To contact relevant organisations regarding the network.

- Network Logo and Branding

A logo has been developed for the NEIDN, which will be used on all branding going forward. The aim for the logo is for companies and freelancers involved with the network to include on their own branding, promoting the network and their involvement. The logo will be shared with all members of the network in a number of formats. There is guidance of use for the logo provided by the designer, which are also available to members if required.

- ACTION: Rachel and Hannah to share JPEG and EPS logos with all members of the network in both black & white and colour.

- Future planning for the network

The aim is to have tangible events and opportunities to link to the network to strengthen the offer and therefore generate a programme of activity for inclusive dance. The network currently sits to the side of the work by organisations and so can't bring as much value at the moment as we would hope. To weave strands of activity within the network will do this. Over the course of the meeting a number of opportunities for this type of development were discussed and they have been included below:

Current Events linked to the Network:

- Inclusive Moves: Middlesbrough Town Hall, 2nd February
- Best Foot Forward: Durham, 20th April
- Inclusive Fest: Darlington, 23rd and 24th July
- Freedom Moving: Dance City, 25th November

Other Events that could be promoted by and included in the development of the network:

- Three Day Conference in Early 2017 at Teesside University. Lectures, presentations and workshops all on Inclusive Dance. Led by Jessica who is currently securing funds for the event. Members of the network offered to write in support to strengthen funding bids and Jessica would provide some more information on the event.
- Indepen-dance 3 day festival in Glasgow in September, International Inclusive Dance Festival.
- Billingham International Folklore Festival is developing strands of inclusive activity within the festival. They are looking to work with dancers with Dementia and are in talks with MIMA about them becoming official partners for this project. BIFF would also like to eventually present a whole day of inclusive activity as part of the festival.
- Theatre Hullabaloo run an established festival called Take Off, which members of the network could get involved in and there could be potential to develop an on-going partnership opportunity. Laura identified Laura Case, Miranda and Lucy Ridley as contacts for Theatre Hullabaloo. Martin was

already meeting with them in the coming weeks so will mention the network and report back on the outcome.

Another key strand to the GfA bid to develop the networks offer was a collaboration with network member Anna Hall of Braena to provide mentoring to individual disabled artists to develop their creative work. Rob is meeting with Anna on the 5th of February to discuss the project and create an action plan. A few points discussed in the meeting were:

- The programme will be available for all disabled artists in the region to apply and Anna will be adaptable to the individuals needs, meaning that the outcomes of the project may vary.
- 3 artists are to be recruited.
- How to recruit? Open call out and different formats were discussed: Paper application, video call-out explaining the opportunity, referrals, and an informal open day for the individuals to take part in a workshop.
- Needs to be clear that its not an opportunity for individuals who want to engage in dance but for dancers who now want to develop their creative work.
- Geography of the region was discussed and the network want to make sure that the call-out is distributed effectively to gain representation from individuals across the whole region.
- Jessica offered to look into the possibility to hold one of the open recruitment workshops at Teesside University.
- Opportunity to film the whole process as a documentation and evaluation tool.
- There is a separate budget, which Liberdade can provide to support individuals to access a recruitment workshop.

An accessible call-out and format for interviews will be develop by Anna and Rob and will be shared with members of the network to approve before this will be distributed across the region. To help with this research needs to be done to find organisations to send the call-out too.

- ACTION: Rachel and Hannah to promote on social media the current opportunities linked to the network.
- ACTION: Jessica to provide information on three-day conference.
- ACTION: Members of the network to write in support of the conference.
- ACTION: Martin to feedback regarding his meeting with Theatre Hullabaloo.
- ACTION: Anna and Rob to develop an appropriate call-out to send to Rachel and Hannah to pass to members of the network to approve.
- ACTION: Jessica to see if Teesside University would be able to host a recruitment workshop.
- ACTION: Rachel and Hannah to distribute the approved call-out.
- ACTION: Rachel and Hannah to research other possible contacts for the call-out.

- Fundraising for the network

How can the network become a sustainable model? It's not viable for one organisation to keep leading on applying for funds for the network as this impacts on the other work by that organisation. Could a number of organisations include a budget line in there other funding bids to collectively feed into the network? Talks with ACE re: how to approach the funding strategically and understanding the long-term possibilities of ACE support. Martin and Rob will be meeting with Alex Croft to discuss this further. What North East local funding bodies

and charities are there which the network could access? Local Authority budgets are being squeezed so how else could resources be accessed from them?

- ACTION: Martin and Rob to meet with Alex Croft to discuss the future funding strategy with ACE.
- ACTION: Rachel and Hannah to research other funding bodies, which could support the network.

- Any other business?

Network meetings to take place bi-monthly. Could the location of the meeting be varied to encourage new organisations to engage with the network. It was acknowledged that the Middlesbrough location had been a success. Sunderland was discussed as a potential option for a future meeting. Martin knows someone who works at the University so may be able to arrange a space with them.

Hannah mentioned Disabled access day, which is to take place on Saturday 12th of March. Those in attendance at the meeting didn't know anything about it so we have since looked into it and please see attached a link to their website: disabledaccessday.com

- ACTION: Rachel and Hannah to look at a date for the next meeting in early March.
- ACTION: Martin, Rachel and Hannah to research a Sunderland venue.